

**Iowa Department of Natural Resources
Natural Resource Commission**

ITEM

18

DECISION

TOPIC Agreement with Northeast Iowa RC&D and the Natural Resources
Conservation Service

The Commission is requested to approve an agreement among the Department, Northeast Iowa RC&D, and the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). The primary purpose of this agreement will be to fund a person to work with private landowners utilizing best management practices that improve water quality and wildlife habitat in “impaired” coldwater streams and related watersheds in Winneshiek and Allamakee Counties. This agreement will further achieve the goals of the Iowa Department of Natural Resources Fisheries and Wildlife Bureau and 319 Program.

The Wildlife Bureau in partnership with the Fisheries Bureau successfully applied for a 319 grant, a federal award made available through the Environmental Protection Agency and the Environmental Services Division of the Department. This contract will enable the Department to put a person on the ground who will work with private landowners in impaired coldwater stream watersheds in the Driftless Area. The position will focus on watersheds of streams in Winneshiek and Allamakee County.

The individual would not be an employee of the DNR but, instead, would be employed by the Northeast Iowa RC&D and housed out of the Decorah USDA office.

The funding for the position will be ¼ Wildlife Bureau, ¼ Fisheries Bureau (1/2 Trust Fund), ¼ 319 funding, and ¼ NRCS (in-kind match of needs such as office space, vehicle, phones).

The total cost of the agreement to the DNR will be for \$33,000 - \$37,000, depending on the experience of the successful candidate.

Dale Garner, Wildlife Bureau Chief
Conservation and Recreation Division
January 8, 2009